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Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Seventy-fourth session
Geneva, 12-14 November 2018
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Revised provisional agenda and annotations * **

Session to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Room XI, together with an international conference on 13 November 2018 (pm)

I. Revised provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Matters arising since the last session:
   (a) United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies;
   (b) Recent developments in other organizations.
3. Sustainable Development Goals and the work under the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards - Updates
4. Revision of the Terms of Reference of the Working Party
5. Revision of the Working Procedures of the Working Party
6. Capacity-building and promotional activities

* Revised to amend agenda item 2.

** Delegates attending the meetings are encouraged to register online https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=msBSap or in the event of difficulties with electronic registration, contact the secretariat by e-mail (Stephen.hatem@un.org). Documents for the meeting and Information on the conference (including the programme and logistics) will be made available online at http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47828.

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7. Electronic quality certificates for fresh fruit and vegetables
8. Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat
9. Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
10. Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce
11. Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes
12. Future work
13. Other business
14. Election of officers
15. Adoption of the report

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Working Party will adopt the agenda.

Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/1)

2. Matters arising since the last session

(a) United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies

The secretariat will present developments at the United Nations, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards having an impact on the work of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7). The Working Party is invited to adopt its programme of work for 2019-2020 and request the renewal of its mandate for a five-year period from 2019 to 2023.

Documentation: Programme of work of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) 2019-2020 (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/21)

(b) Recent developments in other organizations

Other organizations active in the area of agricultural quality standards will provide information about their activities.

3. Sustainable Development Goals and the work under the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards – Updates

Delegations are invited to provide updates on their countries' initiatives on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as discussions that have taken place at each Specialized Section session in 2018. The secretariat will provide further information prior to the session.

4. Revision of the Terms of Reference of the Working Party

At the 2017 session and in the absence of written contributions on the revision of its Terms of Reference, the Working Party formed an open working group consisting of Germany, Poland, Switzerland, United States and the secretariat to prepare a written proposal for discussion. Delegations are invited to review the first proposal of revised Terms of Reference for WP.7.

Documentation: Revised Terms of Reference (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/3)

5. Revision of the Working Procedures of the Working Party

At its 2017 session, the Working Party had reviewed several proposals on procedures for handling, during the revision of standards, reservations placed by countries often a long time ago. The Working Party agreed to ask a working group (Belgium, Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland and the United States) to develop a step-by-step procedure and compile all proposals in one document for comments. Delegations are invited to review the new proposals.

Documentation: Revised Working Procedures (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/4)

6. Capacity-building and promotional activities

The secretariat will review all capacity-building activities under the new United Nations Development Account 11 project which started in January 2018. Delegations will exchange information on capacity-building, training and promotional activities that have taken place since the last session of WP.7 or are planned for the near future.

7. Electronic quality certificates for fresh fruit and vegetables

The Secretariat will give a brief update about the discussions at the May 2018 session of the Specialized Section on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and in the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) on the development of an electronic quality certificate for fresh fruit and vegetables.

8. Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat

The Specialized Section held one regular session as well as an international symposium on sustainable international e-trade for meat.

The Specialized Section submitted the following documents for adoption by the Working Party:

Documentation: Report of the twenty-seventh session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.11/2018/2)

Goose meat – amendment and revisions (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/5)

Ovine meat – amendment and revisions (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/6)

Porcine meat – amendments and revisions (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/7)

Recommended guidelines to the UNECE bovine standard (Eating quality) (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/8)

9. Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

The Specialized Section held one regular session this year.

The Specialized Section submitted the following documents for adoption by the Working Party:

Documentation: Report of the sixty-sixth session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2018/2)

Cherries (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/9)

Cauliflower (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/10)

Broccoli (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/11)

Sweet peppers (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/12)

10. Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

In 2018, the Specialized Section held one regular meeting and organized an international symposium and a testing event in Geneva on the sustainable trade of nuts and dried fruit. In addition, a technical meeting took place in Naples, Italy, to develop a sampling plan and inspection guidelines for nuts and dried fruit.

The Specialized Section submitted the following document for adoption by the Working Party:

Documentation: Report of the sixty-fifth session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2018/2)

Prunes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/13)

Dried coconut kernel pieces (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/14)

Dried bananas (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/15)

Dried papayas (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/16)

Dried melons (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/17)

Explanatory poster for inshell pistachio nuts (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/18)

11. Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

In 2018, the Specialized Section had one regular meeting and held a Rapporteurs meeting (Cusco, Peru) in May 2018.

The Specialized Section submitted the following documents for adoption by the Working Party:

Documentation: Report of the forty-fifth session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2018/2)

Standard for Seed Potatoes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/19)

True Potato Seed statement (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/20)

12. Future work

The Working Party will decide on its future work.

13. Other business

Delegations will be invited to take up other issues not previously addressed during the session.

14. Election of officers

The delegations will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. At its 2017 session, the Working Party elected Ms. Agnieszka Sudol (Poland) as Chair and Ms. Ilse Van Dijl (Netherlands) as Vice-Chair.

15. Adoption of the report

The Working Party will adopt its report, which will be issued as document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2018/2.

III. Tentative timetable

Monday, 12 November	10:00 – 13:00	Working group session (no interpretation)
	15:00 – 18:00	Items 1 to 5
Tuesday, 13 November	10:00 – 13:00	Items 5 (cont.) to 9
	15:00 – 18:00	International Conference on Standards and SDGs
Wednesday, 14 November	9:30 – 12:30	Items 10 to 15